

## WOMAN MURDERED IN VAN CORTLANDT PARK.

Her Identity and the Motive of the Crime Unsolved by the Police.

Thought to Have Been Killed by Two Men, Who Attacked Her in the Woods.

Coroner's Physician Believes Death Was Due to Heart Disease.

MANY WOUNDS FOUND ON HER HEAD.

Different Persons Claim to Recognize the Body, but None Agree as to Who the Dead Woman Was.

The body of a woman whose death, the police say, was due to a brutal crime, was found in Van Cortlandt Park yesterday. Who she was or why she was killed the police have not yet been able to determine. Already the body has been identified as that of several different persons.

Anthony Druce and his wife, who own the Bronx Park cottage on Van Cortlandt avenue, were driving along Mosholu parkway, Tuesday night, and when about 800 feet below Jerome avenue they saw standing under a tree in the park, ten feet back from the little brook which flows beside the road, a woman of remarkably heavy build. She was arranging her disordered hair.

Eleven hours later the body of the woman was found by Park Police Officer Langfield. The body was lying in the little stream, face downward, the head resting at the edge of one bank, the feet on the other.

EVIDENCE OF VIOLENCE. Langfield found blood stains on the clothing, and on examining the head saw a number of cuts. Portions of the hair had also been torn from the scalp. He reported to Sergeant England, and the two began an investigation.

The dead woman appeared to be about forty-three years old and weighed fully 200 pounds. She was only five feet three inches tall, but of huge build. Her face was not at all striking or handsome. She was of dark complexion and had dark brown hair, mixed with gray. On her upper lip was a slight shading of hair and she had



several hairs under her chin. Her hands indicated that she had been used to hard work. She wore a black cloth dress, with a bodice of black velvet trimmed with round jet beads. She had two petticoats, one of gray cloth and the other of black silk; gray woolen underclothing, white cotton stockings and a black corset.

The only ornament she wore was a peculiarly shaped pin, made of a gold ring, with two silver bars running through it. In her pockets were found a pair of cheap brown gloves, a cheap leather purse, containing \$5.12, and a white cotton handkerchief. In the center of which was a neatly embroidered "S" in red silk, and a transfer ticket, numbered 8,638, from the Third avenue to the St. Nicholas avenue railroad. A black cape was also found beside the body.

FIND BLOOD-STAINED STONES. Forty feet from the place where the body was found is a beaten path running at an angle to Jerome avenue. About 500 feet from the place where the woman's body was found Sergeant England discovered a blood-stained boulder. Beside it were fresh wood ashes. Around the rock was a quantity of kindling wood, all of which was stained with blood.

In fact, blood seemed to be everywhere. A short distance from the rock was an irregularly shaped stone, weighing about fourteen pounds, and pointed at one end. This, too, was covered with blood. Further on the Sergeant found a man's white cotton handkerchief, stained with blood. Among the leaves was found a rubber hairpin of peculiar pattern.

What puzzled the Sergeant and the detectives was why the body of such a heavy woman should have been carried to the place where it was found. The murderer could much more easily have carried it into the thicket, where it probably would not have been discovered until identification was impossible. The fact that the woman's pockets had not been rifled proved that robbery was not the motive.

Later on the detectives traced the prints of a heavy hob-nailed shoe from the rock down to the little stream where the body was found. Here and there along the route were the prints of a much larger foot, apparently made by a rubber boot. In the bed of the stream and beside the body was the imprint of the same foot.

Suspicion at once pointed to some of the men who work on the Jerome Park reservoir. The police discovered that the path was generally used by the men as a short cut to Bedford Park. They found nothing, however, that would warrant arrests.

IDENTIFYING AS DIFFERENT PERSONS. After the body reached the morgue, Coroner's Physician O'Hanlon made an autopsy. The wounds in the head, he said, were not sufficient to cause death, but they had caused the loss of much blood. Death, in his opinion, was due to heart disease, brought on by sudden and intense excitement.

Then the identifiers began their work. At first the woman was thought to be Mrs. Sarah Williams, of No. 86 Fourth street, Williamsbridge, who had been missing four days. She returned to her home yesterday. Next the dead woman was positively identified as Mrs. O'Brien, of Bedford Park. She was found alive and well.

At 5 o'clock in the afternoon the body was identified as that of Sarah Scofield, the wife of William Scofield, who keeps a little hotel at Armonk, just north of White Plains. John Kingston, of No. 836 East

## GARDEN PARTY OF THE BARNARD COLLEGE ASSOCIATE ALUMNAE.

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At 7 o'clock Hugo F. Hoefler, manager of John W. Haaron's real estate office, No. 104 St. Nicholas avenue, saw the body and said it was that of a dressmaker who lived on Thirty-sixth street, between Broadway and Seventh avenue, but whose name he did not want to divulge. He was positive about the identity, and left the Morgue to notify her relatives.

Captain Collins, of the park police, said last night he was positive that a crime had been committed. In his opinion the woman was attacked with the stone, and that more than one man was engaged in it. The Kingsbridge and Williamsbridge police, as well as three Headquarters men, are at work. The result of the autopsy has somewhat dampened their ardor.

ALL AT A GARDEN FAIR. Barnard's Associate Alumnae Sell Flowers and Songs to Equip a College Room.

A pretty entertainment was given yesterday afternoon and evening by the Associate Alumnae of Barnard College. It was a garden party and flower sale, and concert by the Yale Glee and Banjo Clubs, held in the private gardens of Mrs. A. A. Anderson, Mrs. S. P. Avery and Mrs. Jacob Winkler, at Nos. 3, 5, 7 and 9 East Thirty-seventh street.

In the center of the garden, a marquee draped with Yale's blue, was arranged for the college boys, and around it, five booths, three for flowers, one for lemonade and one for refreshments, were grouped, draped with Columbia and Barnard's colors, pale blue and white. They were fairly barricaded with buckets of flowers, plain, old-fashioned oak painted pails, which made pretty bits of color between the roses, carnations, flag lilies and apple blossoms.

Around the brick wall enclosing the garden, light blue bunting was hung, and over it a Yale flag was waved at the north end. Above this drape was a row of red, white and blue fairy lamps, which made the scene wonderfully pretty at night.

The undergraduates and alumnae of Barnard College, who presided over the various stalls, were dressed in garden frocks of dainty lawn and muslin trimmed with lace and ribbons.

Miss Elsie Clews was at one of the flower tables, and with her were Miss Mary Dobbs and Miss Alice Leary. Miss Virginia C. Gildersleeve, Miss Elizabeth H. Mapesden and Mrs. S. Pollitzer were at another booth. Miss Louise Dunn and Miss Bertha Van Riper dispensed refreshments, and Miss Janet Sutphen presided over the lemonade bowl.

The Yale boys were very popular and their musical efforts both in the afternoon and evening were received with great applause. Sommer's Hungarian Band played between times.

The committee in charge of the entertainment expect to realize about \$2,000, which will be used to equip one of the rooms in the college's new building to be erected on Morningside Heights.

REJECTED LOVER A SUICIDE. Tragic Sequel to a Refusal of an Offer of Marriage at Auburn.

Auburn, N. Y., May 13.—Because Belle Webster, of this city, refused his offer of marriage, Charles A. Weddigen shot himself through the brain this afternoon and died two hours later in the City Hospital.

The deed was done at the home and in the presence of the young woman, who fell in a swoon from which she did not recover for several hours. Then she became hysterical.

Weddigen was twenty-two years old and had for several years been a page in the State Assembly. Last session he was the Assistant Financial Clerk of that body. He was an unusually bright young man and was the son of ex-Supervisor Frank Weddigen, of Thorp.

One Hundred and Sixty-eighth street, made the identification. He is a friend of the family, and said that Mrs. Scofield came to his house late Monday afternoon and seemed to be in trouble. She stopped with him that night, but disappeared early next morning, before the rest of the family had awakened. Kingston telegraphed to the husband to come on.

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## NOTHING LEFT FOR HIM SAVE DEATH.

Wrecked in Business and Health, Edward Friend Ends His Life.

Was for Years One of the Leading Wholesale Tobacco Dealers in New York.

Gave Up All His Property to Meet Demands of Creditors of His Firm.

HE DREADED TO WORK AS A CLERK.

Leaves His Office and, Renting a Room, Kills Himself, Leaving No Message for His Family.

Wrecked in business and health, and believing that there was no chance for him other than to labor as a clerk at a small salary, Edward Friend killed himself in Leggett's Hotel yesterday. Mr. Friend was the senior member of the firm of E. & G. Friend, for many years one of the leading wholesale dealers in leaf tobacco in the city. Ten days ago, the firm failed with liabilities of more than \$200,000. Even by disposing of their homes and personal property the members of the firm were unable to raise enough money to pay in full the claims against them.

Disheartened by this and troubled by sickness, it is believed that Mr. Friend decided on suicide. Tuesday afternoon he went to Leggett's Hotel and engaged a room. He was well-known at the place, as it had been his custom to stop there frequently when about to make trips to Cuba for the purpose of purchasing tobacco. He acted as usual, and was assigned to room 3 on the first floor. He went to it at once.

Although he did not come down yesterday morning, nothing was thought of it by the clerk, and there was no suspicion that anything was wrong until in the afternoon, when the chambermaid found the door locked on the inside. She reported the fact to the day clerk and he broke the door open.

Mr. Friend was found dead upon the floor, his shoulders propped up by the wall and the foot of the bed. Near the body was a revolver, one cartridge of which had been exploded. The body was removed to an undertaking establishment in Pearl street after it had been viewed by the Coroner, who took away with him a book, several letters and other private papers.

The police took charge of what remained, which, besides his wearing apparel, consisted of \$12.33, a gold watch and chain and some minor personal property.

Mr. Friend left his house, No. 222 East One Hundred and Sixteenth street, Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock, and went to his office, No. 129 Maiden lane. He left there at 1 o'clock. It is surmised that he must have contemplated self-destruction when he left his office. The revolver he evidently bought for the purpose, as he was never known to carry one.

It was a week ago Monday that the firm of E. & G. Friend failed. The firm consisted of Edward, Gus and Leonard, his relatives. They were one of the best-known firms in the tobacco trade. Their failure was a most honorable one, and everything possessed by the firm and owned by the partners individually was sacrificed to satisfy the claims of the creditors. Even the house in which the deceased Edward Friend lived was placed among the assets of the firm.

To add to his business troubles, Mr. Friend had been sick for more than a year, and had been under treatment for a variety of ills. His advanced years, combined with his sickness and failure in business, is supposed to have unbalanced his mind. Last Monday evening, while talking with friends, he expressed his belief that he would have to begin life over again, and said he would look for a clerkship. He was a widower, and leaves two daughters, Miss Minnie Friend, who married J. Levy, a wealthy commission merchant, of Philadelphia, and Miss Edna Friend, who lived with him. It is believed he was unable to keep up his life insurance and will leave no estate.

New Fast Train to Philadelphia. Pennsylvania Railroad announces that, commencing Monday, May 18, a new two-hour and five-minute train will leave New York daily except Sunday at 7:30 a. m., arriving Philadelphia 9:35 a. m. Pullman buffet parlor car.

## "BABY" M'KEE VERY ILL.

Ex-President Harrison's Favorite Grandson In Danger of Bronchial Pneumonia.

Saratoga, N. Y., May 13.—Benjamin Harrison McKee, popularly known as "Baby" McKee, ex-President Harrison's favorite grandchild, is seriously ill with bronchial pneumonia. The family are occupying the McDonald cottage on Union avenue.

On Monday afternoon, following a heavy shower, "Baby" McKee, who is nine years old, played on the lawn in front of the cottage. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. McKee started for New York City, the children being left with other members of the household. Late Monday night and early Tuesday morning "Baby" McKee gave evidence of having contracted a severe cold. He was in a high state of fever and his temperature ran up to 104.

Dr. R. G. Craighead, an Indianapolis friend of the family, who was summoned, found that the child had a severe attack of pleurisy and was threatened with pneumonia. "Baby" McKee not improving yesterday, Dr. Craighead telegraphed to Mr. and Mrs. McKee, who at once started for this place, reaching here this morning. This afternoon the child's affliction assumed a bronchial pneumonia phase.

It is not known that ex-President Harrison, who yesterday reached Old Forge, in the Adirondacks, has any knowledge of the serious condition of his grandson. Should "Baby" McKee grow worse the fact will probably be telegraphed to General Harrison.

## METHODISTS HAVE FUN.

The Recent Turmoil Over Women Gives Place to Plesantry in the Conference.

Cleveland, O., May 13.—Bishop Vincent, the venerable founder of the Chautauque Society, presided at this morning's session of the Methodist General Conference. The Rev. Dr. Lowther, of Southwest Kansas, created a great deal of interest by introducing the following resolution:

"Resolved, That this conference do send to the annual conference the question as to whether the word 'women' should be so construed as to include women."

Whereas, it is believed by many that on Scriptural grounds women cannot be admitted to the general conference; therefore,Resolved, That we also submit to the annual conference the following questions: "Are women included in our articles of religion, which read: 'Man is very far gone from his original purity?'"

While this question is pending, be it the order of this General Conference that the women of the church obey the Apostolic injunction, 'Let your women keep silence in the churches.' That they do also receive the knowledge that comes from books, papers, magazines, lectures, tracts and reading circles, and if they would learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home."

Since "on Scriptural grounds" some of our brethren have served notice that they will raise this question on the day of judgment, let the annual conference do as they see fit to vote whether women are included or excluded in the language "Every man in his own country" in St. Paul's chapter on the Resurrection.

In motion of Dr. A. J. Kynett, the resolutions were referred to the Committee on Eligibility.

## COHEN'S AWFUL THREAT.

Bound to Sit in One Place Until His Wife Spoke to Him or Starve to Death.

Tobias Cohen, thirty years old, left his home at No. 255 Delancy street last Friday, to look for work. When he returned he found that his wife had gone away and taken with her most of the household effects and \$630. His heart was broken and his hope for work departed.

He started out to seek her. Last evening he found the woman at No. 98 South Third street, Williamsburg, occupying a furnished room. When Cohen knocked on the door his spouse opened it and then slammed it in his face. He sat down on the stoop and wept. He told an inquiring policeman that he meant to remain there until the woman would talk to him, if he starved waiting. The policeman left him sitting there.

## ROBBED THE SCHOOLM'AM.

Did the Spirit of Former Five Points Criminals Animate These Wicked Boys?

Miss Emma Johnson, a teacher in the Five Points School, at No. 56 Park street, caused the arrest yesterday after school hours of two of her youthful pupils, who had robbed her desk of \$1.00. The boys were Thomas Ammit, seven years old, of No. 94 Baxter street, and Michael Budero, eight years old, of No. 32 Madison street.

They had been suspected by Miss Johnson, but until betrayed by their schoolmates yesterday there was no proof against them. Policeman Londrigan, of the Elizabeth Street Station, was called in, and told to place the boys under arrest. As he did so they burst into tears and confessed to stealing the money. Their names were written on the station-house blotter, and they were then sent to the rooms of the Gerry Society.

## BABY'S PRATTLE WON THE CASE IN COURT.

Sad "Oo" Instead of "You" to the Magistrate, and He Listened.

Her Point Was That Home Was a Better Place Than the Gerry Society's Rooms.

Judge Started a Subscription to Keep a Roof Over the Heads of Her Struggling Parents.

EVEN THE GERRY AGENTS JOINED IN.

Triumph Such as That Won by Four-Year-Old Cecilia Diamond Might Be Envied by the Ablest Lawyer in Town.

Nobody in the Essex Market Police Court yesterday morning could have failed to be touched by a remarkable scene, when pretty, curly-haired, four-year-old Cecilia Diamond in toddler's prattle begged Magistrate Wentworth not to take her from her mother and father.

Joseph Diamond and his family had been found in a destitute condition in a tenement house at No. 365 East Houston street. The mother held twin boys, nine months old, in her arms when she appeared with her husband and four other of their seven children before the Magistrate. Agent Welding, of the Gerry Society, said that it would be to the best interest of the family if the mother was released of the care of all but the twin babies for a month or more.

It was at this point that little Cecilia tugged at the trousers of Welding. The agent good-naturedly lifted the child in his arms. She reached over the Judge's desk and the big-hearted Magistrate leaned forward and grasped her chubby hand.

"What do you want, dear?" he asked. "Me lub mamma," she prattled, "me lub papa. Me want to do home wix mamma. Papa go too. Oo good man (and the little thing looked straight in the Magistrate's eyes). Brudder lub mamma; sissier lub mamma."

Every eye was turned, every neck strained toward the picture, as the bright little Cecilia earnestly prattled on, while the Magistrate's face lighted up as he listened to the child's plea. Her appeal had touched him, and she won.

The Magistrate patted her curly head and refused the request of the Gerry Society. He ordered that the family be kept together. Then he pulled a greenback from his pocket and handed it to Agent Welding. Within ten minutes Welding and Roundsman O'Brien had gathered in a good sum of money from the crowd, which had been aroused by the pathos of the scene.

Before dusk the scanty furniture of the Diamond family had been recovered from the Bureau of Encumbrances, where it had been taken when it had been sidetracked after being thrown from the tenement on East Hoe. Then the family was re-established in their rooms at No. 365 East Houston street.

"It was all due to little Cecilia. Agent Welding, 'She is the brightest, sweetest child the Gerry Society has in years.'"

When the Gerry agents went to the tenement street on Monday they found the mother nursing the twin babies, while the other children lay around her. The cell-like, dirty rooms were bare of furniture. The only food in the apartments was a gill of milk in a medicine bottle, which a neighbor had sent in to the mother. The family paid \$8.50 a month rent. They did not owe any money to the landlord, having succeeded in paying him in payments of 50 cents and \$1 at a time. The father earns \$4 a week as a cook in a saloon and was unable to give the rent in one payment. This, it is said, was why the landlord gave them notice to get out. He says he objected to the children. Diamond had not the money with which to pay for other rooms.

On Wednesday last a city marshal and three assistants put the family's furniture into the street. They threw out the scanty clothing the mother was washing. The furniture lay in the street until Thursday night, when it was hauled to the Bureau of Encumbrances' yard. The family continued to sleep at night in the bare rooms from which they had been evicted until neighbors notified the Gerry Society.

## JILTED MAN'S SUICIDE.

Meishner Shot at Emma Welton, and Then Ended His Life with a Bullet.

William Meishner, thirty-two years old, a sturdy and healthy workman in the Zelter Brewery, at Third avenue and One Hundred and Seventieth street, who came to this country from Germany four years ago, killed himself at 11 o'clock a. m. yesterday in the apartments of Emma Welton, No. 217 East Twenty-fifth street, by shooting himself through the forehead with a revolver.

Meishner wanted the Welton woman to marry him and she refused. Becoming alarmed at his threats she fled from the room. Meishner fired at her, but missed, and then while lying on the bed blew out his own brains. An ambulance was summoned from Bellevue Hospital, but Dr. Williams, who came with it, said that the man must have died instantly. The Coroner's office was notified, and Dr. O'Hanlon reached the scene at 6:50 o'clock. Coroner Fitzpatrick arriving a few minutes later.

It was decided that an inquest was unnecessary, and a permit was given for the removal of the body to an undertaker's.

Alleged Filibusters Furlish Jail. Captain John O'Brien and Cook Edward Murphy, of the steamship Bermuda, were, along with John D. Hart and Emilio Sunez, called yesterday to plead in the United States Circuit Court, Criminal Branch, to an indictment charging them with violating the neutrality laws. The prisoners entered a formal plea of not guilty, with permission to change their plea if they so wished later.

Lawyer John Laughlin Ward appeared for O'Brien, Murphy and Hart, and Sunez was represented by Lawyer Rubens. Judge Benedict fixed bail in each case at \$2,500. Bail was furnished for all the prisoners.

## Advertisement.

The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser, in plain English, or Medicine Simplified by M. D. V. Henry M. D. Chief Consulting Physician to the Invalid Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y., 1008 page, illustrated, sent by mail for \$5.00. Now sent, paper-bound, ANALYTICALLY, on receipt of 25¢ of one-cent stamps, plus pay for mailing cost. Address the Author, as above.

